TL 4588

Resolution of National Convention of Indonesian Non-Governmental Organizations on a Peaceful Settlement for East Timor

The East Timor problem is a serious problem for Indonesia. The so called "integration" of East Timor into Indonesia has turned out to have been a result of large scale military invasions which has been preceded with various military operations that were concealed from the Indonesian people. Gross human rights violations on a daily basis ever since have increasingly stained Indonesia's name. Furthermore those attacks that took place while at the time of East Timorese people pursuing decolonization were in conflict with Indonesian Constitution which state: "Freedom is the right of all people and accordingly colonialism must be abolish from the earth because it does not fit with humanity and justice."

In international community, East Timor becomes a major and very serious obstacle for Indonesia. Indonesia has been undertaking variety of diplomatic measures to convince international community not to raise the issue of East Timor. Additionally, the East Timor problem has clearly become a heavy economic burden. State expenditures for military presence and operations (including so-called "territorial operation") have become increasingly expensive burden. At this time of economic crisis it has become a matter of urgency to remove this burden.

The claim by Soeharto New Order government that East Timor is an internal Indonesian problem did non solve the problem but the current Habibie government is continuing with his claim. Gross human rights violations continue. The people of East Timor have continued their resistance. In international level, Indonesia faces continuous attacks from people's organizations and countries, which value human rights.

The New Order political position which has been inherited by the current government is directly oppose to the general understanding of the international community. The "integration" of East Timor through "Balibo Declaration" which further strengthen with Law No.7/1976 and the Parliamentary Decision No. 6/1978 is still not accepted by the United Nations. East Timor is still regarded as "a non self-governing territory."

For the UN, East Timor is a problem which requires a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution. This reflected in various resolutions (8 resolutions of UN's General Assembly and 2 resolutions of Security Council) since the "integration." All these resolutions explicitly condemn the Indonesian invasion of East Timor and urge Indonesia to immediately withdraw its troops form East Timor and give the East Timorese people the opportunity to exercise the rights to self determination.

The principle of decolonization and self-determination which have become international consensus is actually the result of Indonesia's struggle. In the 1955 Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung initiated also by Indonesia, the Dasa Sila Bandung (Ten Principles of Bandung) was issued, based on an anti-colonial spirit and which asserted the right of independence for colonized

nations. The Dasa Sila was one of the basis of the 1960 United Nations General Assembly's Resolution on The Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

In view of the fact that Indonesia was a nation formed from an anti-colonial struggle which continued to be active in struggles against all forms of colonization (and even supported the struggle of the African National Congress in South Africa and peaceful settlement of the Moro problem in the Philippines), we, the participants of the International Consultation Supporting Democracy in Indonesian held in Jakarta, Oct. 23-24, 1998, feel the need to voice our stand on East Timor.

To reestablish Indonesia's dignity as a nation against colonization and to realize the constitution's message to join in efforts for a world of peace, we issue this resolution on a peaceful settlement to East Timor:

- Support efforts of the UN secretary general in facilitating a peaceful settlement to East Timor through a tripartite forum (UN, Indonesia and Portugal) which have begun since 1983.
- Demand that Indonesian government to be open to talks on the political status of East Timor;
- Urge the Indonesian government to reduce its troops in East Timor under the supervision of independent institutions (national and international);
- Support the participation of representatives of all East Timor groups in each international level talks on East Timor;
- Demand that Indonesian government to release all of East Timorese political prisoners and detainees, including Kayrala Xanana Gusmao, in their struggle for East Timor independence;
- Support the exercise of East Timorese' right to self-determination through a fair referendum.

Signed in Jakarta, Oct. 24 1998

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